

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

HON. MIKE PARKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 1995

Mr. PARKER. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House today to remind my colleagues of a very important day approaching—the National Day of Prayer to be observed on Thursday, May 4. Around this great country, people of all ages, race, and social standing will join together on Thursday to give thanks for the blessings they have received. In addition, they will offer up prayers for our Nation and the suffering we have recently endured. We certainly have much to be thankful for but we also have much to seek divine guidance about.

Although this body will not be in formal session on Thursday, I hope that my colleagues in their own personal way will observe the National Day of Prayer—a tradition since Congress passed a resolution in 1952.

In addition, I commend Wanda Kay Wigley for making the Mississippi National Day of Prayer a priority in our State.

RECOGNITION OF WALTER LUCIANO

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 1995

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, one of the pleasures of serving in this body is the opportunity we occasionally get to recognize publicly outstanding citizens of our Nation. Today I am especially pleased to speak about so worthy and respected an individual. I rise today to recognize Mr. Walter Luciano.

On a local level, Mr. Luciano is involved in a number of organizations. He works for the parks department as a law enforcement officer. He is well known in Glendale Civilian Observation Patrol [GCOP] as patrol captain and as an active board member. Mr. Luciano is also an auxiliary member of the Middle Village Ambulance Corps.

Mr. Luciano, who held a reserve commission in the New York Army National Guard for almost 23 years of service was recently retired with the rank of captain due to downsizing of his unit. He now serves in the Retired Reserve. His commitment to serving this Nation is truly admirable; he is a model of how responsible citizens can help make their neighborhoods and their country safe.

Additionally, Mr. Luciano has been noted in the local papers of Bayridge, and the New York Daily News for his truancy program and his involvement with the New York City Board of Education's Speaker in the Classroom Program.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in commending

Mr. Luciano for his dedicated service. He is truly an inspiration to us all.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING A VISIT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON TAIWAN

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 1995

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

I just want to make 3 points: one to my colleagues, one to the Chinese Government, and one to the administration.

I simply would remind my colleagues that this administration has actually done more than any of the previous administrations with respect to elevating its relationship with Taiwan. This is the first administration which has allowed high-level members of its Government to visit Taiwan. This is the administration that signed legislation last year passed by this Congress to allow Taiwanese-Americans to list Taiwan as their place of birth on passports, and in a whole variety of levels it has enhanced that cooperation.

To the Chinese Government, I simply remind that Government, we have many differences. Both the gentlewoman from California and the gentleman from California have spoken to those differences.

However, in and of itself the passage of this resolution does not speak to the question of whether our policy should be a one-China policy or a two-China policy or one China and one Taiwan policy. It deals very specifically with the question of President Lee making an informal visit, and it should not be construed in any other fashion.

The third point is to the administration. I think you will see, by virtue of the unanimity of feeling on this subject in the Congress, that this issue will not simply go away, that it will not end with a passage of a sense of Congress resolution, and that legislation will be coming that will seek to mandate this visit if the administration's policy does not change. I urge them to reconsider this aspect of their policy.

CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, April 19, 1995 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

The House recently completed 100 days of action on the leadership's 10-point Contract with America, taking up and passing measures ranging from legal and congressional reforms to a balanced budget amendment.

Despite all the attention to the Contract in Washington, I have been impressed in a number of public meetings in Indiana that the Contract only rarely comes up for discussion. Most people know very little of its provisions. For those who do, many support the major elements of the Contract but also say that the House leadership has tried to do too much too quickly. Still others see Congress as operating under the "politics as usual" rules, criticize the spending cuts, or disagree with cutting taxes before balancing the budget.

SUMMARY

Crafted last fall, the Contract with America was organized into 10 major planks, plus a prologue making procedural changes in the House. The promise was to bring all of the items up for a vote within 100 days. All passed the House except the constitutional amendment limiting congressional terms. Some of the measures passed by the House—such as the balanced budget amendment and welfare reform—differed in significant ways from the versions outlined in the Contract. The Senate has not yet acted on most of the Contract, although it did defeat the balanced budget amendment. Only two parts of the Contract have become law—requiring Congress to comply with the laws it passes for everyone else and reducing unfunded federal mandates.

As it has turned out, the Contract is really a starting point for negotiations. It is clear to me that the raw and unrefined bills, passed by the House will be softened by the Senate, or may be even stopped. Even after surgery by the Senate, some Contract initiatives face possible presidential vetoes. Which parts of the Contract will eventually become law is far from clear.

I voted for several parts of the Contract and opposed others. The House first took action, with my support, to cut the number of committees and congressional staff and to require Congress to live by the laws it passes. These proposals were similar to legislation I sponsored last session based on the work of the Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress. I also voted for a balanced budget amendment, a version of the line-item veto, curbs on federal mandates on the states, and restrictions on excessive government regulations, among other measures. I did not support certain other provisions, including a bill that would restrict individuals' Fourth Amendment protections against government searches, a term limits proposal that would kick in some 19 years from now, and an expensive tax cut—largely for the

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

wealthy—that would make it enormously difficult, if not impossible, to balance the budget.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

There have been several positive aspects to the Contract with America. First, the House leadership did what they said they would do. They took on several major issues and moved them through the legislative process expeditiously. They deserve credit for that. They have seized extraordinary control of the political agenda and the terms of the debate.

Second, several Contract items represent significant reforms. For example, the measures, that have been signed into law—congressional compliance and restrictions on unfunded mandates—are important changes.

Third, the Contract has helped bring about a serious reassessment of the role of government. The House leadership has focussed greater attention on several very important questions. How big should the federal government be? Should the functions of income maintenance and regulation be permanent features of our government? Can we pay for whatever we decide the government ought to do? Do states have sufficient resources and capabilities to resume their full role under the Constitution?

DRAWBACKS

There are also several drawbacks to the Contract. First, the Contract has dealt to a surprising degree with legislative and regulatory procedures rather than substantive legislation. For example, the Contract has us vote on sending to the states a Constitutional amendment to require Congress to eventually balance the budget rather than have us simply vote on a balanced budget. As the Speaker said, "We cleverly picked popular things to do."

Second, the Contract failed to deal with many of the real problems facing our nation. As House consideration of the Contract was coming to a close, I kept thinking to myself that it is now time to get about the business of the nation: doing something about jobs, incomes, health care, and education. The real test is not how many bills are passed or the popular ratings score or the checklist on the Contract's progress. The real test is whether we improve the lives of Americans and improve our prospects for the future.

Third, several of the Contract items went too far. For example, a central part of the Contract has been to cut back programs for millions of struggling Americans while at the same time providing tax cuts mainly for the rich—tax cuts the Wall Street Journal called "the biggest tax-saving bonanza in years for upper-income Americans". I do not find broad support for the proposals to cut federal programs that benefit children, the elderly, or the middle class.

Fourth, the tough budget decisions lie ahead. The basic Contract promise, of course, is to cut federal spending and balance the budget. If the new leadership fails at that, they will have failed altogether. The Contract's tax cuts were a major step in the wrong direction. It will be impossible to both reach a balanced federal budget and provide big House-passed tax cuts without putting the entire budget on the cutting table, including Medicare and Social Security. So far the House leadership has spoken only in generalities about cutting spending. Sooner or later, they will have to detail politically difficult spending cuts.

CONCLUSION

It is far too early in the process to say that the Contract has been a success or a failure. The House has certainly not finished its heavy lifting, and in many respects the tough decisions lie ahead. Still, a good start

has been made on certain items, and it is quite possible that with the Senate serving as a filter and a brake, the legislative results will be pretty good.

FLOYD DAVIS TRIBUTE

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 1995

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, last week New Mexico lost one of our great citizens. It is with great sadness that I inform the House of the death of Floyd Davis of Rio Rancho.

The 76-year-old Davis was the continuous, energetic volunteer in the fight to preserve, protect, and nurture African-American youth.

A long-time resident of Hempstead, NY, and Rio Rancho, Mr. Davis became a singular institution in both locales for research, communication, and networking related to increasing employment opportunities for the African-American community as a whole but especially for its youth. A native of Norfolk, VA, Mr. Davis retired from the U.S. Postal Service at John F. Kennedy Airport in New York and relocated to Rio Rancho.

Mr. Davis served as a school volunteer with troubled youth in Albuquerque, Rio Rancho, and Springfield Gardens, NY, and was one of the first to organize a directory of black businesses and professionals in Hempstead, NY.

He personally circulated through the public and private sector of Albuquerque in search of employment opportunities for African-American youth. Opportunities identified were disseminated through the civic and religious network of the community. This was often followed by any support required to achieve the goal of getting more youth gainfully employed.

He had recently completed a self-funded survey of African-American car sales persons in the Albuquerque area which was designed to increase patronization by the community and help strengthen the presence of these sales persons with potential customers.

Mr. Davis also served as a strong foot soldier across Albuquerque with the New Mexico Democratic Party to help get out the vote for many Democrats. He was a tireless volunteer for the Democratic Party and made sure that Democrats were elected to office.

Clearly, Mr. Davis touched a great many lives during his many years with us. I am glad I had the opportunity to know him. I urge my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to this very special man, Mr. Floyd Davis of Rio Rancho.

STATEMENT ON ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 1995

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to the 125th anniversary of the Order of the Eastern Star, which is being celebrated at the organization's annual convention in Atlantic City, NJ, today. This is an important organization that has done much for our Nation and deserves our recognition.

The Order of the Eastern Star is associated with the Order of Free and Accepted Masons and membership is open to Master Masons, their wives, daughters, mothers, widows and sisters. The precise beginnings of the order are not known, but records indicate that a similar organization existed in France during the 18th century. The order was introduced in the United States by Robert Morris, a La-Grange, KY., Mason, teacher, poet, attorney, and minister who wrote the first ritual in 1850 and published it in 1865 as *The Rosary of the Eastern Star*. The General Grand Chapter, which has jurisdiction over chapters in the United States and Canada, was founded in 1876 and is headquartered here in Washington.

The order is dedicated to serving people in need, to social enjoyment and promotion of civic interests. Among other activities, it offers scholarships to needy students, and maintains homes both for aged members and orphaned children of members, and aids in research into diseases such as cancer, arthritis, and heart disease.

The Order of the Eastern Star is no small organization. There are 3 million members worldwide; 2.5 million of them in the General Grand Chapter. It is the largest women's fraternal organization in the world. I feel a particularly close connection because my own mother, Mrs. Margaret Scafati, has been a member for 55 years and served as worthy district deputy in 1978.

The Order of the Eastern Star has provided spiritual guidance and tangible aid to millions throughout its 125-year history. I congratulate the Order of the Eastern Star on its first 125 years and wish it another 125 years of equal success.

TRIBUTE TO SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 1995

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that Representatives MAXINE WATERS and WALTER TUCKER have joined me to salute the Second Baptist Church of Los Angeles on the occasion of its 110th anniversary of providing outstanding ministry and spiritual leadership to Los Angeles' African-American community. On Friday, May 12 at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel, Second Baptist Church will hold its anniversary banquet to recognize the distinguished contributions of some of Los Angeles' most notable sons and daughters. In recognition of the empowering contributions that Second Baptist Church has made to our combined communities however, we would like to use this opportunity to share with our colleagues the following historical retrospective of this great church.

For African-Americans the black church traditionally has served as a beacon of light and as a nurturing spiritual foundation. Clearly, Second Baptist Church stands as a personification of that force. Organized in 1885, Second Baptist Church began its spiritual journey with a small congregation of 22 members. Today, its congregation has swelled to 1,350 active and participating members.